Setting up of a University in Barrack Valley in Assam

1082. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a university in Barrack Valley in Assam; and

(b) if so, what are the steps already taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) No, Sir. The Government of Assam has decided to establish a State University in the Barrack Valley in Assam.

(b) Does not arise.

Improvement in navigability of Ganga

1083. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the navigability of Ganga has been considerably reduced due to the constant siltation; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps have been taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Presumably, the question refers to Calcutta Port. The navigability in the River Hooghly has declined due to siltation and inadequate upland discharge.

(b) A comprehensive scheme for improvement of draught in the navigational channels leading to the Port of Calcutta and Haldia was sanctioned in August, 1982 at an estimated cost of Rs. 40.50 crores and is under execution.

Barasat-Bongaon Project

1084. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have referred the Barasat Bongaon Doubling Project to the Planning Commission for reconsideration; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Adoption of Shipping Code

1085. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision to implement the Shipping Code laid down by UNCTAD;

(b) whether Government propose to enforce cargo reservation for the Indian shipping companies;

(c) whether Government have enforced containerisation;

(d) whether a Planning Group has been appointed for formulating a perspective plan for shipping; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Government has in principle taken a decision to implement U.N. Liner Code. The Legislation is being drafted which *inter alia* provides for 40 per cent of liner cargo for Indian ships.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) A Planning Group was constituted by the Planning Commission in December 1985 under the chairmanship of Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Shipping Corporation of India for formulation of long term Perspective Plan for Transport Sector on an integrated basis.

'Blindness in India'

1086. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one-third of the blind population of the world is living in India alone;

(b) if so, what is the number of blind population in each State and Union Territory; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken or are to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per Indian Council of Medical Research Survey carried out in 1971—73, the estimated number of blind population is nine million. which is about one fifth of the total blind population of the world. State and Union Territory wise figures of blind population have not been available.

(c) The Government of India have launched a National Programme for Control of Blindness in the year 1976-77. The Programme envisages extension of immediate eye relief measures for the needy in the rural areas adopting 'eye-camp approach' besides phased development of permanent eye care facilities at various levels coupled with intensification of health education measures and manpower development activities. The ultimate aim is to reduce blindness from 1.4 per cent in 1975 to 0.5 per cent by 2000 A.D.

Fly-over on rail line connecting Rani Bagh and New Rohtak Road in Delhi

1087. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a fly-over on the railway line connecting Rani Bagh and New Rohtak Road near Shakur Basti railway station;

(b) if so, by when the flyover is likely to be constructed;

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in negative what are the reasons therefor, and

(d) whether Government propose to undertake survey in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Railways undertake construction of Road over/Under Bridges in replacement of existing busy level crossings jointly with the State Government/Local Authority on cost sharing basis. Proposals are required to be sponsored by the State Government/Local Authority with an undertaking to bear their share of the cost. No proposal for provision of Road Over Bridge at this location has been received by the Railways from the Delhi Administration so far.